Appl. No. 09/980,739 Amdt. Dated March 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 17, 2003



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/980,739

Confirmation No. :

8125

Applicant

Akihiko Wada

Filed

March 14, 2002

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MAR 2 2 2004

Examiner: Docket No. Ryan R. Yang

Customer No.:

34102 116

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

By this amendment, eighteen total claims are pending in this application, including four independent claims. A check in the amount of \$86.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for one independent claim in excess of three.

In response to the Office action of December 17, 2003, paper no. 7, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Robert F. Bodi

Name of Attorney for Applicant

03-16-2004

Date

Signature of Attorney